

SPRING 2024

# Check This Out!

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY - PONTE VEDRA BEACH, FL

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Visit our Website at:

Friends of the Library web page

[www.folpyvfl.org](http://www.folpyvfl.org)

PVB Library web events page:

[www.sjcpls.org/branches/ponte-vedra-beach-branch/](http://www.sjcpls.org/branches/ponte-vedra-beach-branch/)

SJCPLS's Facebook channel's home link

("like" this page for updates!):

[www.facebook.com/sjcpls](http://www.facebook.com/sjcpls)

SJCPLS's Facebook Virtual Programming

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SJCPLS's YouTube channel's home link

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SJCPLS's YouTube channel's Virtual

Programming videos direct link:

[www.youtube.com/user/sjclibraryvid/videos](http://www.youtube.com/user/sjclibraryvid/videos)

## MESSAGE FROM THE BRANCH MANAGER

Our entire library system is experiencing exciting and challenging changes. These adjustments have been planned to provide an improved overall experience for all of our patrons. As we move forward together, we ask for your patience and your feedback. Each of our service desks have comment cards, so we welcome you to participate in our growth at our branch. We have a new online catalog! We believe that you will enjoy the new features available. You can find out more information about the Aspen Discovery platform by visiting [www.sjcpls.org/aspen-discovery](http://www.sjcpls.org/aspen-discovery). We have new staff members at our branch! In addition to hiring 2 new Assistants for our Circulation Services team, we have expanded our Adult Services team to include a Programmer who will be planning and presenting events onsite and in the community. Thanks to the incredible generosity of the Friends of the Ponte Vedra Beach Library, we will also be acquiring more new books for all ages and scheduling more engaging events for families this year. Wait... there's more. We anticipate expanding hours this Spring to include Sunday afternoons, so stay tuned to our website or speak to staff for the most up-to-date information.



*Kim Odom*

## Free AARP & VITA Tax Preparation Locations By Appointment Only

-Free AARP Tax preparation is- available by appointment only, through April 10th. Please visit the library's website for information. Call 904-827-6950 for an appointment.

-We are now seeking Artists to apply for exhibit space use for May, September,

A new and improved library catalog experience is here!

Visit [www.sjcpls.org](http://www.sjcpls.org) to learn more.



November and December. The library's gallery space includes two walls across from our Circulation Customer Service Desk. Please contact Kim Odom at 904-827-6950 or [kwodom@sjcfl.us](mailto:kwodom@sjcfl.us) for an application.



*Tessa Highstrom*

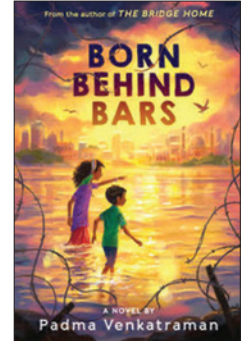
The St. Johns County Library System is excited to welcome Tessa Highstrom as their new Adult Services Program Coordinator at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch. Before making the move to St. Johns County, she worked as an Education Coordinator, Teacher Naturalist, Recreation Program Specialist, and even an Outdoor Education and Backpacking Instructor. What is Tessa most excited about? "To connect with the Ponte Vedra community through new and exciting programming offerings." When she isn't at work you'll find her spending her free time trail running, enjoying nature, or spoiling her cat Smokey. Have an adult program idea, class or workshop that you would like to attend? Send Tessa an email at [highstrom@sjcfl.us](mailto:highstrom@sjcfl.us).

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# BOOK REVIEW & ART WALL

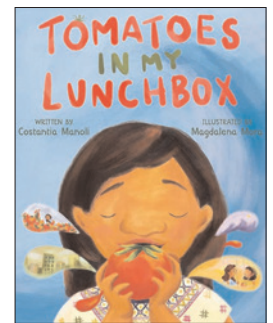
## Award Winners

Each year the Florida Association for Media in Education (FAME) puts together a list of fifteen notable books for each age level published during that year. From last year's choices of books for grades 6 - 8, I picked a beautifully written book by an author born in India. **Born Behind Bars** by Padma Venkatraman, @2021, ages 12 - 14 years, tells the story of 9 year old Kabir who was born in jail after his mother was wrongfully incarcerated. The description of life with four other persons in a small cell are heartbreaking and very emotional. When Kabir is finally freed and on his own, a brand new world opens up. He is sent to an "uncle" who plans to sell him. Kabir escapes and meets a teenage girl who teaches him how to survive. His only goal is get his mother out of jail, and after many months from helpful people he succeeds. The story brings the reader into Indian customs, food and language in an interesting way.



The next age group choice, ages 8 - 10 years, is the book **Night Frights - The Haunted Mustache** by Joe McGee, illustrated by Teo Skaffa. The weird routine in the town of Wolver Hollow on October 19 every year was to wear a mustache, lock all the doors at dusk and stay inside. Teacher Noffler said it was just a silly old legend, but Parker wanted to learn why. After all he was now in fifth grade and operating a detective agency on the side. When the town shut down that night, Parker, Lucas and Samantha met at the cemetery armed with salt and a can of Handsome Hanks mustache wax in order to find the mustache and once and for all put it to rest. Samantha had read that the mustache was afraid of salt, but attracted to the wax. They find the grave of Backius who died in an explosion on October 19 with his mustache coming alive every year on that day. The story has lots of excitement and scary moments, but being a tale with mostly dialogue, it is not a piece of great writing.

For the youngest group I choose **Tomatoes in My Lunchbox** by Constantia Manoli, illustrated by Magdalena Mora, @2022, ages 4 - 6 years. When Constantia's teacher calls her name "it's strange and sharp, and sounds like something is breaking". Oh, how she wishes her name was like the others' - Amy, Sophie, Chloe. It takes time for her to make friends with her strange name and whole tomatoes in her lunchbox. She doesn't feel at home. There are thousands of children like her in our country today, but this book might help a child to adjust. The author was born in the US to Cypriot parents, but lives in Cyprus today.



**Marianne Stein**  
FOL Board member

## Local Artist



**J. Lacey Taylor**, a fourth-generation Floridian, has woven her artistic journey through a profound connection to the Sunshine State. Born in Jacksonville and later raised in Ft. Myers, Lacey's upbringing was defined by island-hopping escapades, childhood crabbing expeditions, and vivid storytelling about tropical shipwrecks-recurring themes that would later infuse her art.

Inspired by her artistic relatives whose studios left indelible imprints on her memories. Lacey embarked on a creative path leading to her education in Graphic Design at the University of North Florida.

Today Lacey enjoys a thriving career in digital design art and has undertaken a mission to teach middle school art, driven by her deep empathy for teenagers and her desire to empower them through artistic expression.





# FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

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## BOOK CLUB CORNER



Laura Burke

There are thousands of them, maybe millions, in every form and format. Yes, book clubs. The love of reading, finding a good story, learning just about anything that piques your interest. The supply of good books will always fill the demand.

Let me tell you about just one. A book club that is. Back in 2009, a few women were talking about the desire for a book club - a real book club - where books were read and discussed. And Beach Book Club was formed. It was decided that there would never be more than 10 members. It would not be a cocktail party, or a dinner party at anyone's house. The simple format is run by all 10 members, not one person. All members are responsible for showing up, reading the book, and contributing to the discussion. Our 75 minutes allow all attending to voice an opinion and rate the book on a scale of 1-10. One being it was awful, ten being the best book EVER. Book choices are made by the whole club, not one person.

The method of choosing books has changed over the years. It was evident when it was not efficient or clearly liked. Currently, we choose this way. Twice a year, everyone makes book suggestions. All books are made into a list and then each member votes for 5 books. The 5 books with the highest votes, become the books for Jan-May. This is repeated, and they are the books for June, Aug-Nov. July is called "self-read" month. Everyone reads a book and comes to the book club and presents it. Now we all have several new books to explore. December, we get together and have a book "present" game party where we pick and swap and fight for the book we want that has shown up at this event.

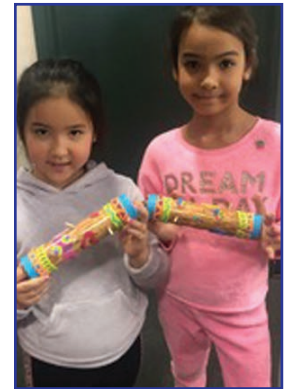
Everything does not always work perfectly. People travel, have other commitments, or don't get the book read. But most of the time it is a wonderful interaction between readers and their perspective. Our club tries to vary the types of books and authors. We do fiction, mystery, memoirs, history, classics, autobiographies, current, and older books. Sixteen years of books!

It has been a joy and a privilege to be part of this book club. We now are all friends and care for each other. I hope all who desire a place to share a love of reading find a spot that fits them just as this has done for me. -Laura Burke

Laura volunteers on Wednesdays from 2-4 pm at Seymour's Bookstore. You often will find Laura helping our patrons by talking about the wide variety of books she has read.

## FAMILY TIME

Our newest program called Music Makers. The children are taught how to make their own musical instruments. The first session was rain sticks.



The PVB  
Lego Club  
meets the 4th  
Saturday of each  
month for free  
building with  
Legos.

Fun at our family event in December Winterfest! We had 207 people attend with both children's and adult crafts and activities.



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# FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

## 2024 FOL PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Leslie Kleiman

Dear Friends,

I would like to thank our two amazing Co-Presidents, Kathy Cohen and Laurie Kelly, who have passed the gavel on to me (again!). Watching them in action has taught me patience and a can-do attitude. All of us on the board have enjoyed working under their leadership these past two years. New to the board is John Menke, our treasurer. John and his wife Suel live in Ponte Vedra Beach. He is a retired CPA and loves pickleball, along with the library!

The library staff continues to find ways to be innovative and we are purchasing three new programs for our library.

An inflatable Planetarium Dome - This will be used by adults, teens, and children for immersive learning experiences throughout the year. Program topics will include astronomy, weather, mythology, oceans, bird migration, and more.

A Moveable Kitchen - This will also be for all age groups and will provide hands on nutrition based Programming.

A Makers Space - this will be used to organize and streamline the capacity to do art based Programming around the building.

We are funding the remodel of the Reference Suite. Also we are just starting the process to remodel and update our Children's section. We are building our committee and are looking for several FOL members that use the Children's section that would like to be on this committee. We also would like input from parents for their vision of a children's library. We will be putting a box in the library with a questionnaire.

We have just finished the Annual St, John's Reads. This is a county Programming its 20th year, focusing on "One Book, One Community, creating a shared conversation on a novel. This years book was "The Reading List" by Sara Nisha Adams. Our library was the first stop on her Author Visits. One participant said that our library is a "Destination Library", what wonderful praise.

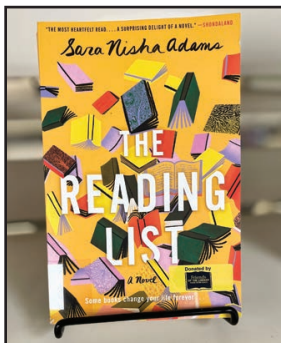
**Leslie Kleiman**  
President

## ST. JOHN'S COUNTY READS FINALE



Sara Nischa Adams and Stephanie Race

The St. John's County Reads program wrapped up with a visit from the author of The Reading List, Sara Nischa Adams. Sara visited the Ponte Vedra Branch Library on Tuesday, January 30th and spent an hour with our librarian Stephanie Race for a thoughtful Q and A repartee. The lecture was very well attended, with everyone receiving complimentary book bags and refreshments, provided by the FOL. Thank you Sara and we look forward to your next book, The Twilight Garden, coming in the Spring.



Patrons enjoying the refreshments



Longtime FOL member,  
Charlene Maroney



A packed house!



# LIBRARY PROGRAMS



## March 2024 - May 2024

### Adult Programs

Tech Help with David @ 10:30

March 7 RSVP  
March 21 Walk-in  
April 4 RSVP  
April 18 Walk-in

Book Lovers Book Club @ 11:00

Anything by Marie Benedict  
Solito by Javier Zamora  
Horse by Geraldine Brooks

March 1  
April 5  
May 3

Adult Movies @ 11:00 am

Norma Rae  
Dead Poets Society  
Indiana Jones &  
Temple of Doom

March 22  
April 19  
May 17

Adult Coloring Club @ 11:00

March 5  
April 9  
May 14

Bingo for Books @ 11:00

April 26

How Can I Find What I'm Looking For?

Strategies for Enhancing Your Research Skills @ 6pm  
March 25  
April 29

### ADULT SERVICES SUMMARY

The Reference Desk is busy scheduling AARP Tax Aide appointments and helping patrons access tax forms in preparation for April 15. We'll celebrate Women's History Month and National Poetry Month with Movie Matinees and Book Lovers Book Club titles chosen from member suggestions.

Be on the lookout for new programs now that Tessa Highstrom is part of the Adult Services Team as our Adult Program Coordinator. She has great ideas!



Facebook

m.facebook.com

### Teen Programs

Jewelry Making 5:30

Hack the Artist: Georgia O'Keeffe 5:30

Teen Trivia Night 5:30

Painted Stones 5:30

Hydroponics 5:30

March 20

March 27

April 10

April 17

April 24

### Children's Programs

The children's department takes a break in May to prepare for SUMMER READING ADVENTURES and will resume programming in June.

Babytime 10:15

Toddlers and Tales 10:15

Pre-School Prep 11:15

PVB Kids Club 2:30

Every Wednesday

Every Thursday

Every Thursday

Every Wednesday  
(enjoy a simple craft or game)

Family Storytime (NEW) 10:15

April 13

Music Makers 3:00

March 6 and April 3

LEGO STEM Adventures for Kids

Underwater Quest 4:00 and 5:00

Underwater Quest 3:00

Tree House Camp 4:00 and 5:00

Tree House Camp 3:00

Drop-In Ukulele "Jam" Session 4:00

March 26 and April 23

March 7

March 9

April 11

April 13

Creative Kids

Nature Prints 4:00

Nature Prints 3:00

Model of Solar System 4:00

Model of Solar System 3:00

March 21

March 23

April 18

April 20

PVB LEGO Club (free play with LEGOs) 3:00

March 30 and April 27

### YOUTH SERVICES SUMMARY

There is a lot to look forward to in March and April. In Music Makers, children make their own instruments with Ms. Jane. Earth Science Rocks continues with using things in nature to make prints and to create a model of the solar system as we celebrate the solar eclipse on April 8.

The youth team is gearing up for an amazing summer filled with adventures! Keep your eyes open for information about "Finding Adventures at Your Library!"



SEYMOURSBOOKSTORE

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# MUSIC & SPEAKER SERIES

March 5, 2024. Doug Matthews Jazz Trio



Doug Matthews is the chairman of the Piano Department at LaVilla School of the Arts in Jacksonville, Florida, where he runs the piano lab and has been an instructor since the school opened in 2000. Doug is an active performer, composer and arranger. He performs regularly in the North Florida area. He studied under our Dr. Gerson Yessin at UNF and was one of the first students to graduate from the acclaimed Jazz program. The Jazz Trio of Ricky Ravelo on bass, Rick Kirkland on drums and Doug on piano are glad to be returning to our series

April 9, 2024 Dr. Simon Shiao and his UNF violin students

Violin Professor since 2003 at the University of North Florida, Dr. Simon Shiao continues to be an active performer around the world. Recently, he performed a recital in London at St. Martin-in-the-Fields Cultural Embassy Concert Series, was an Artist in Residence at the Grand Teton Music Festival Winter Concert Series and served as a guest artist at University of Utah. Dr. Shiao arranges regular opportunities for his violin students to work with visiting artists such as the Tokyo String Quartet, Dover Quartet, members of the Berlin Philharmonic and renowned soloists. The graduates have gone on to attend graduate programs, to perform in professional symphony orchestras and to accept teaching positions throughout the U.S.

The students performing on this series come from all corners of the state, including Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, Tampa, Venice, Orlando and Jacksonville.

**Doors open at 6:00 and Concert start at 6:30.**



## FOL Spring Speakers

The FOL Speaker Series launched its 2024 season with two exceptional guest speakers. *Florida Times-Union* sports columnist Gene Frenette kicked off the series in January and *New York Times* bestselling author Lisa Black followed in February.

Since the library is an early voting site, the series skips March and picks up on Tuesday, April 16 with Timothy Corrigan, the Chief Judge for the Middle District of Florida. Judge Corrigan joined the federal bench as a Magistrate Judge in 1996, was appointed as a District Judge in 2002, and became the Court's Chief Judge on November 2, 2020. Judge Corrigan's topic is "Ode to the Rule of Law."



The FOL welcomes Jacksonville Mayor Donna Deegan on Tuesday, May 21 to wrap up the spring portion of the FOL Speaker Series. Mayor Deegan is the 45th mayor of the City of Jacksonville, Florida, and the first woman to serve as mayor. A Jacksonville native, award-winning local television news anchor, three-time cancer survivor, and non-profit founder, Mayor Deegan was sworn into office on July 1, 2023. She will discuss her first year in office and answer questions about the state of the city, the Jaguars stadium contract, and more.

The FOL Speaker Series returns after the summer break with two more programs in September and October. Each program is free and open to the public. The doors to the FOL Community Room open at 6:00 p.m. and the program begins at 6:30 p.m.

# ANNUAL MEETING

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## AT SAWGRASS GOLF CLUB

Our annual meeting was held at Sawgrass Golf Club on January 25th.

We elected a new president, Leslie Kleiman, and welcomed a new treasurer, John Menke. Our financial situation is quite good, due in large part to the tireless efforts of the Seymour's staff. Jennifer Hoag and Paula Nardon lead a crack corps of volunteers that man Seymour's, sort books, and work the sales. Many thanks for all they do.

Our guest speaker was Rear Admiral William McQuilkin (Ret'd). He had a slideshow presentation and regaled us with stories from his various ships, through the Cuban Boat crisis to the Baltics and Korean peninsula. He brought his various adventures to life with great anecdotes and personal reflections.



## Volunteers Needed

Did you know...Everyone working in Seymour's Bookstore and behind the scenes is a volunteer. Seymour's relies on a full staff of volunteers to provide our local community and visitors with a great shopping experience. Our volunteers are knowledgeable, friendly, and eager to help you find that perfect book.



If you are interested in volunteering at Seymour's, pick up an application at our bookstore. Please note, St. John's County requires all applicants to submit and pass a background screening. The little boy pictured assisting Jean Cowell will have to wait a few years to apply!





# Thank You for Your Generous Donations



From time to time, we receive art pieces, and other non-book items mixed in with a box of books. We research, price, and display these unsolicited items. An example would be the pieces of art in the hallway outside of the Friends of the Library room. Please stop by and see what we have to offer. These one-of-a-kind treasures are sure to add charm to your home or office. Priced at \$15 and up.

Another example is the Snoopy Plush and Wardrobe of 16 Outfits (1958 – 1961) Vintage Collectible

This vintage 11” Plush Snoopy comes with a special wardrobe of 16 outfits, all in their original packaging.

A must-have for any Peanuts or Snoopy fan or collector of animation merchandise. This favorite Peanuts character would make a perfect gift for the collector in your life. Suitable for all ages. This unique and rare find represents the beloved character of Snoopy and the iconic Peanuts franchise. Visit Seymour’s Bookstore located in the Ponte Vedra

Branch Library and look for Snoopy and his wardrobe in our display case located in the front lobby of the library. Priced at \$250.00 Includes the 11” plush Snoopy character, 16 outfits, and the display materials.

## FOL MEMBERSHIP



If you haven’t already renewed your 2024 membership, please visit our website at [folpvbfl.org](http://folpvbfl.org) and click on the membership tab. You can also scan the QR Code below or simply drop a payment off at Seymour’s. We thank you for your continued support.



## LIBRARY CLOSINGS

*Good Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>  
Staff Development Day Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>  
Memorial Day, Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup>*

*A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll free (800-435-7352) within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state.*



Home - Friends of the Library  
[folpvbfl.org](http://folpvbfl.org)

### FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY MISSION STATEMENT

*Our mission is to make the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch of the St. Johns County Public Library System an outstanding educational, cultural, civic and recreational center for the community. This will be achieved by providing supplemental books, materials, volunteers and programs; fundraising and advocating on behalf of the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library. By enlisting support of all those dedicated to disseminating knowledge, we believe the community will be enhanced and enriched.*